

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 002201

62

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 FEA-01 TRSE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 073383

R 062034Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 002201

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS STATE 002201

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF WHITE HOUSE AND SECRETARY ON BUSINESS
WEEK INTERVIEW

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGES OCCURRED AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS
SPOKESMAN'S BRIEFING JANUARY 3:

Q. SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN HIS INTEVIEW WITH BUSINESS WEEK,
MENTIONED A MILITARY OPTION IN THE EVENT OF A STRANGULATION
OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES BY THE OIL PRODUCING
COUNTRIES. I HAVE A THREE-PART QUESTION.

ONE, DID THE PRESIDENT KNOW THAT SUCH AN OPTION EXISTED?
TWO, HOW LONG HAS HE KNOWN THAT SUCH AN OPTION EXISTED?
THREE, IS HE IN FAVOR OF THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN OPTION?

MR. NESSEN: DID YOU READ THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW?

Q. I SURE DID.

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T RECALL HE USED THE WORD OPTION. I DO
THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW IN ORDER
TO PLACE HIS COMMENTS IN THE APPROPRIATE CONTEXT AND TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SPECIFIC QUESTION WAS TO WHICH HE WAS
REPLYING.

Q. THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION WAS FAIRLY BRIEF, AND HIS
ANSWER WAS RIGHT TO THE POINT. HE SAID THERE MIGHT IN
EFFECT BE SOME CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE MILITARY ACTION MIGHT
BE CONSIDERED. DOES THE PRESIDENT AGREE WITH THAT POINT?
DOES THE PRESIDENT AGREE THERE MIGHT BE CIRCUMSTANCES
WHERE MILITARY ACTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED?
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 002201

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT HAS READ THE INTERVIEW, AND THE
PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THE SECRETARY'S ANSWER AS A HIGHLY
QUALIFIED ANSWER ON A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION INVOLVING
ONLY THE GRAVEST KIND OF EMERGENCY FOR THE INDUSTRIAL WORLDJN
AND THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DID THE PRESIDENT ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO QUIT
MAKING FOREIGN POLICY OR EXPRESSING A BELLIGERENCY THAT
MAY INVOLVE A WAR?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD
ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DOES THE PRESIDENT AGREE WITH DR. KISSINGER'S ANSWER

THAT QUESTION?

MR. NESSEN: HE DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DOES HE DISAGREE WITH IT?

MR. NESSEN: HE DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON IT.

Q. HAS HE DISCUSSED IT WITH DR. KISSINGER OR IS HE GOING TO?

MR. NESSEN: I AM NOT AWARE OF A SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. HOW ABOUT A GENERAL DISCUSSION?

Q. DID THEY DISCUSS IT THIS MORNING?

MR. NESSEN: I DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING THIS MORNING. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO TALK ABOUT THE CIA.

Q. DOES THE PRESIDENT INTEND TO REPRIMAND THE SECRETARY FOR MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 002201

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. WHO MAKES FOREIGN POLICY?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Q. WOULD THE GRAVEST KIND OF EMERGENCY BE SOMETHING BEYOND ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO?

MR. NESSEN: I THOUGHT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN THE INTERVIEW, DEFINED THE KIND OF EMERGENCY HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

Q. HE TALKED ABOUT STRANGULATION OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS THAT COULD RESULT FROM ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO.

MR. NESSEN: ALSO, I THINK YOU WILL SEE THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS TALKING ABOUT A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION IN THE FUTURE, AND HE DID SPEAK OF IT AS ONLY THE -- THE QUESTION INVOLVED ONLY THE GRAVEST KIND OF EMERGENCY INVOLVING THE STRANGULATION OF THE ENTIRE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD.

I THINK YOU ALSO HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT SEEKING ANY CONFRONTATION WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS, THAT HE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING COOPERATION WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

Q. HAS THE PRESIDENT EITHER ASSURED ANY FOREIGN NATIONS

OR HAS HE INSTRUCTED SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ASSURE ANY AMBASSADORS THAT THIS WAS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED ANSWER TO A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. ARE YOU LEAVING US WITH THE IMPRESSION OR WOULD YOU WANT TO LEAVE US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER? IT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 002201

SEEMS IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR YOU TO SAY HE AGREED AND HE HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

MR. NESSEN: HE DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. IT SEEMS TO ME HE IS SUBSCRIBING TO DR. KISSINGER'S STATEMENT BY YOUR REPLY.

MR. NESSEN: YOUR COLLEAGUE GETS JUST THE OPPOSITE IMPRESSION.

Q. DO YOU INTEND TO LEAVE IT CONFUSED THAT WAY?

MR. NESSEN: I INTEND TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DO ANY REAL CONTINGENCY PLANS EXIST FOR ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD THIS HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION BECOME A REALITY?

MR. NESSEN: YOU KNOW WE NEVER TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONTINGENCY PLANS EXIST.

Q. I THOUGHT YOU DENIED IT ABOUT TWO OR THREE WEEKS AGO WHEN THIS MATTER CAME UP.

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T THINK SO.

Q. JIM DEAKIN ASKED YOU ABOUT IT, AND YOU SAID IT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE TO EVEN DISCUSS SUCH A THING.

MR. NESSEN: THE JIM DEAKIN QUESTION, IF I RECALL IT RIGHT, HAD TO DO WITH A SERIES OF NEWS STORIES AT THAT TIME WHICH SPOKE OF MILITARY ACTION IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q. ISN'T IT IRRESPONSIBILITY EVEN TO RAISE A HYPOTHETICAL OF THIS KIND?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 002201

Q. THE SECRETARY, JUST TO RAISE THIS HYPOTHETICAL, ISN'T THIS IN THE AREA OF IRRESPONSIBILITY? YOU TALKED ABOUT IRRESPONSIBILITY OF DEAKIN'S QUESTION. NOW WE HAVE THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

MR. NESSEN: DEAKIN WAS TALKING ABOUT MILITARY ACTION AT THE PRESENT TIME IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE SECRETARY WAS TALKING ABOUT A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, TO WHICH HE GAVE A VERY HIGHLY QUALIFIED ANSWER.

Q. THAT KIND OF A QUESTION, DOESN'T THAT SEND OUT A MESSAGE? ISN'T THERE A MESSAGE THAT GOES OUT?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY MESSAGE.

Q. TO THE WORLD.

MR. NESSEN: AS I SAY, IT WAS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED ANSWER TO A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION IN THE FUTURE.

Q. WOULD THE PRESIDENT DEFY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER BY INVADING ANOTHER COUNTRY?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DOES THE PRESIDENT FEEL THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY THAT WE WOULD NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION BUT COOPERATION?

MR. NESSEN: THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING THING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT.

2. SECRETARY'S IMPROMPTU REMARKS TO THE PRESS AT THE JANUARY 3 SWEARING IN OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ROBINSON:

Q. THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED THE MIDDLE EAST OR THE PROSPECT OF INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY, THROUGH RON NESSEN, AS HYPOTHETICAL. IS IT AN ENTIRELY HYPOTHE-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 002201

TICAL SITUATION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE PRESIDENT SAID WHAT I SAID. IT WAS -- I THINK THE WHITE HOUSE HAS MADE IT CLEAR, MY VIEWS REFLECT THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. IT CONCERNED A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, NAMELY, THE STRANGULATION OF EUROPE AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, THAT DOESN'T NOW EXIST. AND IT IS TO THIS CONTINGENCY THAT MY REMARKS ADDRESSED THEMSELVES.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, YOU TALKED ABOUT THE CONSIDERATION OF FORCE ONLY IN THE GRAVEST EMERGENCY. WOULD YOU SPECIFY--

SECRETARY KISSINGER: REALLY I THINK I WILL STICK WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID, WHICH WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, AND WHICH ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE PRESENT SITUATION THE GREATEST EMERGENCY.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHY DID YOU TALK ABOUT IT IN THESE TERMS IN THIS INTERVIEW WHEN YOU -- THE FACT OF THE MATTER-- HAVE DUCKED IT EVERY OTHER TIME?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: BECAUSE WE ARE AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION.

Q. AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION WITH NEWSMEN?

Q. HOW DID YOU WANT THE ARAB OIL STATES TO READ THE INTERVIEW? PARTICULARLY WHERE YOU TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: OH, I THINK THE CONTINGENCIES TO WHICH IT REFERS ARE QUITE CLEAR, AND I DON'T THINK MUCH IS GAINED BY AN ELABORATION. OUR BASIC ATTITUDE IS TO WORK OUT THESE PROBLEMS ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS. WE HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED A CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE AND WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. THE QUESTIONS TO WHICH I REPLIED CONCERN SITUATIONS IN WHICH THERE IS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO STRANGLE THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. OUR BASIC ATTITUDE IS THAT THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT COOPERATIVELY, AND WE ARE CONVINCED THEY CAN BE WORKED OUT COOPERATIVELY.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 002201

Q. SIR, DO YOU SEE THAT GRAVEST EMERGENCY ACTUALLY MATERIALIZING?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I THINK I POINTED OUT, I DON'T SEE IT ARISING. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INVASIONS, PETROLEUM, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE002201
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750005-0622
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750189/baaaagma.tel
Line Count: 327
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JAN 2003 by daviscw>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971001
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, US, PFOR
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
GENEVA
JIDDA

KUWAIT
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
TUNIS
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN N Y
NATO
SANAA
BAGHDAD
DOHA
ABU DHABI
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006